(b) whether bids were therefor known before the Government's decision;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether reserve prices are also open secrets?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Government is aware of the news item captioned "IOC emerges frontrunner for IBP, decision today" appeared in the Economic Times dated 5.2.2002.

(b) to (d) The disinvestment process is so structured that the details of the bids received, the reserve price, etc. are internal to the process and Government announces the name of the winning bidder only after it takes a final decision on the bids received. In order to maintain the integrity of the process utmost confidentiality is maintained. The same procedure was followed in the case of IBP and VSNL disinvestment and Government is not aware of any breach of its procedures. Therefore, this news item can at best be described as speculative in nature.

Revenue and fiscal deficits of NER States

*57. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue and fiscal deficits of the North-Eastern Region States from 1995-96 to 2000-2001;

(b) Government's assessment of the financial position of the North-Eastern States; and

(c) the measures adopted to restore the fiscal health of these States?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Tables indicating revenue and fiscal surplus/ deficits of the North-Eastern States from 1995-96 to 2000-01 are given at statement (*See below*)

(b) In the recent years, the state finances of the North Eastern states have been under pressure as reflected in various fiscal indicators, such as fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, primary deficit etc. Gross fiscal deficit of the states has shown increase over the years mainly due to inadequate buoyancy in revenue (Tax/Non-Tax) receipts, and rising level of revenue expenditure.

(c) Fiscal management is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The State Governments have taken measures of their preference from time to time to improve their financial status. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, a scheme for the States' Fiscal Reform Facility (2000-01 to 2004-05) has been drawn to encourage the States to draw monitorable fiscal reforms programme, linked to a system of incentive, aimed at reducing their revenue deficit. So far, the Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Programmes (MTFRP) have been discussed in the meetings of the Monitoring Committee in the Ministry of Finance, represented by the State Governments, in respect of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura. MoUs has been signed with the Governments of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

Statement

Revenue Surplus (+) / Deficit(-)

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	States	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 RE
1	Arunachal Pradesh	264	205	171	177	172	114
2	Assam	-200	285	287	90	-1005	-757
3	Manipur	73	113	71	106	-287	13
4	Meghalaya	104	114	12	17	16	44
5	Mizoram	55	37	19	78	-31	23
6	Nagaland	-101	8	-127	-23	-9	-0.41
7	Sikkim	60	39	41	-55	2	161
8	Tripura	151	122	22	93	-23	-72

RE—Revised Estimates
Source: Finance Accounts/Budget Documents of the States

FISCAL SURPLUS (+) / DEFICIT (-)

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	States	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 RE
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	-23	-72	-122	-56	-89	-225
2.	Assam	-652	-74	-142	-338	-1606	-1923
3.	Manipur	-105	-157	-190	-108	-656	-231
4.	Meghalaya	-52	-23	-126	-147	-209	-280
5.	Mizoram	-87	-136	-163	-99	-214	-259
6.	Nagaland	-203	-137	-265	-185	-199	-359
7.	Sikkim	-40	-56	-67	-147	-93	-53
8.	Tripura	-34	-122	-196	-118	-290	-427

RE - Revised Estimates
Source: Finance Accounts/Budget Documents of the States

Health care centres for mentally challenged persons

*58. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the provisions of Mental Health Act, 1987, Government have to set-up at least one health care centres for the mentally challenged persons in the States;

(b) the number of centres, so far, set-up in the States; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase their number in view of the deplorable conditions in some private mental asylums?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Mental Health Act, 1987, provides that "The Central Government may, in any part of India, or the State Government may, within the limits of its jurisdiction, establish or maintain psychiatric hospitals or psychiatric nursing homes for the admission, treatment and care of mentally